

TO BE SEEN AT THE RICHMOND PLAYHOUSES THIS WEEK



SCENE FROM "THE MAN ON THE BOX."

MISS FRANCES NORDSTROM,
Leading lady with the Giffen Company.

PLAY BILLS FOR THE WEEK.

At The Academy.
All the week (except Thursday), with Wednesday and Saturday matinees. The Giffen Company in "The Man on the Box." Thursday night, Isabel Irving in "Susan in Search of a Husband."

At The Bijou.
All the week, with usual matinees. Henry Clay Blaney in "The Boy Detective."

At The Colonial.
All the week, with matinees every day except Monday, vaudeville, with Pat Rooney and Marion Bent as the headliners.

At The Majestic.
Vaudeville all the week.

BY BRUCE CHESTERMAN.

Commencing to-morrow, for the first time in the history of Richmond for many years there will be three theatres (houses that deserve the name) open every night in the week to the public. The opening of the Colonial, the remodeled house on the northwest corner of Eighth and Broad Streets, will give to the city its third theatre, and will mark the ushering in of vaudeville for the second time on that corner. Any one glancing at the schedule of the week's amusements, if not familiar with the situation, would at first sight come to the conclusion that Richmond is the second of the Southern cities to take its place among the "week stands," for under each house appears the wording, "all the week." Such, however, is not the case, and it may be, and no doubt will be, some years yet before Richmond can be classed with New Orleans as a "show town." And then there will be Memphis, Nashville and Atlanta all in the race, for they are each something of a

One of the most important events to be recorded of last week's happenings is the return to Richmond of Mr. R. L. Giffen. The popular manager, who is a favorite here, having a wide acquaintance in Richmond, had not been in this city for four years when he alighted from the Norfolk train last Tuesday and made his way in the direction of the Academy. His progress to the playhouse and afterwards to the Jefferson Hotel was somewhat impeded on account of the frequent stopping as he was hailed by some friend or acquaintance, who gave him a smile of welcome and a warm grasp of the hand. "That" night, as he stood in the lobby of the Academy, that portion of the house was almost packed in a reception room, and only two were needed to make the picture complete. Mr. Giffen seems to have grown four years younger, if one may use that expression, since he was last here. The likeness which appeared in those columns was not, after all, such an injustice, though the manager says that he was in short pants when he sat before the camera for that photograph. Only the modesty of Mr. Giffen prevented the publication of a cut made from a photograph of more recent date, a photo which has since been furnished in order to avoid a repetition of the trick of last week.

"The Man on the Box."
The Giffen Company this week will present "The Man on the Box," a dramatization of the novel of the same name. The comedy has been a pronounced success for the past few seasons, and the excellent company which Messrs. Wells and Giffen have brought here should appear to advantage in the piece. When the play was presented at the Madison Square Theatre it leaped into popularity from the beginning. Those who have read Harold McGrath's novel are familiar with the humor and romance which it affords.

The story of "The Man on the Box" is replete with dramatic surprises, and abounds in terse and witty speeches. It is founded on the practical joke of a young army officer, who plans to give his sister a pleasant surprise by exchanging places with the family coachman, driving her home from a society ball, and then capping the climax with a kiss. In the confusion of the carriage calls he gets on the box of the wrong carriage and drives away with two young ladies whom he has never formally met and with one of whom he has fallen in love while on the steamer crossing from Europe. He loses control of the horses, becomes a central figure in a midnight runaway, and ends in a cell at the police station.

With this foundation, a comedy and romance are developed that keep the audience in a state of excitement through three spirited acts, and furnish the company with abundant material to reveal their qualities.

The Giffen Company will make way Thursday night for Miss Isabel Irving, but will appear upon the other nights of the week, as well as at Wednesday and Saturday matinees.

Miss Isabel Irving.
Miss Isabel Irving comes to the Academy Thursday night in the new play, "Susan in Search of a Husband," by Jerome K. Jerome, the adaptation being made by E. W. Presbrey.

The play tells a distinctly quaint little story of a totally different type from that usually found upon a stage. The scene is laid in Wales, at an old-fashioned inn known as "The Dovecot." The play is full of quaint characters,

that move in and about through the plot, and in many respects it is an ideal type of the drama. The story, while simple in the extreme, is yet full of revelation of boundless complications. Briefly, it is this: Susan Cambett, a young American girl of good family, has been married at a period seven years prior to the beginning of the story to a young British naval man whose ship had visited New York. Unfortunately, the young man had mysteriously disappeared on the night of his marriage, and during the intervening period Susan had prosecuted a search for her young man.

She had recently been attending a school in France, and there she had formed the acquaintance of an American heiress, Miss Robina Pennicque. Finally, her money having come to an end, Susan answers an advertisement from the Little Inn in Wales, to labor as a chambermaid, and on her arrival there she meets Miss Pennicque, who has run away from her chaperon. The heiress recounts a flirtation she has had with a young man, and it is then discovered that the three, so to speak, is on his way to the inn. Robina believes he has followed her there, and with a view to discovering whether he loves her for herself alone, or for her money, it is arranged that the two girls shall change places. Lord Bathmore arrives, and immediately recognizes the supposed chambermaid as the young woman he had met on the steamer a day or two previously. He is astonished to find her in her position, and then he discovers the supposed heiress. There is something vaguely familiar about her, and he begins to fall deeply in love. Robina, the real Robina, views this with alarm, and then the real Susan tells her that Lord Bathmore is her missing husband. There are a series of complications following this, but these are happily adjusted before the final curtain.

Harry Clay Blaney.
Harry Clay Blaney will do some of his quick-fire, double-action stunts at the Bijou this week in "The Boy Detective," an output from the melodrama factory of Charles E. Blaney. The latter puts out only the guaranteed kind, none genuine without the seal and stamp, etc. So those who want the real article, initiated by many, but produced only at the original shop, will know where to find it this week.

Mr. King, who has been seeing that the name of Blaney (both of them, actor and play producer) appeared prominently in every section of the city.

"The Boy Detective" is no ordinary melodrama. It is a high-class, entertaining story in good dramatic form, telling the adventures in the life of one, "Willie Live," in correct detail, interwoven among which is a strain of clean-cut, polished comedy, an abundance of new song and dance numbers, and several good specialties, all of which lend high color to the quick and untiring action of the play.

Good enough. Let Willie come on. Everybody who saw him in "Across the Pacific" will be anxious to watch him do some more of his side-stepping, Johnny-on-the-spot, business. And then, there will be Kitty Wolfe, the little soubrette, who keeps pace with Harry Blaney, and perhaps sometimes sets the pace. She is as much of a favorite with the patrons of the Bijou as is Blaney himself, and will be just as sure of getting a hand when she tips before the footlights to-morrow night.

Vaudeville Once More.
The Colonial (thank goodness the name is settled) will open to-morrow night with a vaudeville bill. The name finally chosen will look even more imposing in electric light than "Masco," and the Passenger and Power Company will profit by the two additional letters.

Somewhere said (I'm afraid to give names) that when "Masco" was decided upon it was to save one letter, and thus reduce the bill for current, "Masco" having six letters, and the other only five, but in the end it seems that the former company has come out several letters ahead. Mr. Wells, however, is doing so much to illuminate Broad Street, that no one really believes the story. And there is no reason why the Colonial should prove just as much a mascot without being so labeled.

The house, when it opens to-morrow night under the name of "Colonial," and under the management of Mr. Frank D. Hill, of Roanoke, Pa., will present as pretty an appearance as one would care to witness. The decorations are handsome, and the entire lower floor has been provided with comfortable chairs upholstered in leather.

The offering this week embraces the names of some people quite well known to the vaudeville stage. Pat Rooney and Marion Bent, are the headliners. Rooney is a dancer of note, and his partner is fully able to look after her share of the act. When Rooney dances, everybody sits up and takes notice. A noted and in the press agent's stuff it featured act will be the Japs Yamamoto, who has appeared before all the "crowded houses" of Europe. The press agent must be having trouble with his typewriter (the machine, of course) unless "crowded heads" is another term to express "swelled heads," which was probably

MISS ISABEL IRVING,
at the Academy.

PAT ROONEY AND MARION BENT.

HARRY CLAY BLANEY AND KITTY WOLFE,
With "The Boy Detective," at the Bijou.EMMETT CORRIGAN,
Leading Man with Giffen Company.

not intended. The Japs have been members of the Imperial circus, and in that capacity no doubt appeared before crowned heads.

The other numbers on the bill are Quinton and Mack, in a sketch entitled "The Traveling Dentist"; Kittie Nelson, singer and comedienne; Eckhoff and Gordon, a musical team (Miss Gordon said to be one of the handsomest women in vaudeville); Spissell Brothers, acrobats, and Emerson and Baldwin, comedy jugglers. New pictures will be shown by the kineoscope.

It is the intention of the management to have daily matinees, an exception being made to-morrow, as naturally it was deemed best to open the house at an evening performance.

Society Circus Fad.
When Mr. A. A. Duchemin, business manager for Mr. Giffen, was in the city last week it was perhaps not known to many with whom he came in contact that his name is a familiar one in the ultra-fashionable and most exclusive circles of the "Four Hundred" in the leading centres of this country. Mr. Duchemin is the man who originated the society circus fad, the novelty of which seemed to delight many of the multi-millionaires of the money world. The society circus had its inception at that most fashionable resort—Newport—when it was given by Mr. Duchemin under the patronage of such prominent social leaders as Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, and

Mrs. Herman Oelrichs. This entertainment, which was intended to tickle the jaded palates of those who sought something entirely new as a diversion, cost something over \$3,000. It was given later by Mr. Duchemin for the Twenty-second Regiment of New York at a cost of \$4,500. Its originator has produced it in all of the principal cities of the East, the unique entertainment having netted various charities over \$3,000.

Miss Grayce Scott Coming.
The stock company which is to be located in Richmond will open at the Academy Easter Monday. It will no doubt be welcome news to theatre-goers here to know that Miss Lucile LaVerne will be a member of this company. It is more than likely that Mr. Walter D. Green will also be engaged by Mr. Giffen, an announcement which should cause a stir among some of the matinee girls, who never missed an afternoon performance during the stock season last year. And then Mr. Giffen promises that Miss Grayce Scott will appear in some of the productions, and this will more than delight all classes, old and young, for no more popular actress ever played in Richmond than the little ingenue.

Bob Waite, who, with Charles Kesamich, is responsible for that entertaining and new sheet, "The Playgoer," is now the Richmond correspondent of the "Show World," a theatrical publication issued in Chicago. Bobby is getting to be quite a literary man.

Mr. Norbert Caughy (Clinton Hamilton) of this city, will be in Richmond next week in Miss Boulah Poynter's company, which is presenting "Molly Bawn."

Miss Jennie Prager, of the "Blue Moon" Company, is one of the cleverest (and dancers who have come this way in more blue moons than one can count. She is a dainty little woman, and certainly suggests the "little girl" idea, for she is only about four feet and a half in height. No one who saw her dance last week would imagine that

Majestic Theatre

Week of March 30th.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT HYDE.

IN

A Stage-Struck Rube

AND

MR. GEORGE CLARK.

A Funny German Comedian.

Six Performances Each Day.

Ten Cents All Over the House.

Colonial

Week Commencing Monday Night March 30

"Keith-Proctor Vaudeville"

Matinee Every Day. Popular Prices

PAT ROONEY and MARION BENT

MONTGOMERY and MOORE
Comedy Pianist and Vocalist.

YAMAMOTO BROS.
Tight-Wire Experts.

QUINLAN and MACK

Famous Blackface Comedians and Musical Stars.

ECKHOFF and GORDON

The Musical Laughmakers.

KATHARINE NELSON
Dainty Singing Comedienne.

KINETOGRAPH PICTURES
Latest Animated Views.

SPISSELL BROTHERS and MACK

Funniest of all Acrobatic Comedians.

SCALE OF PRICES:

NIGHTS—Orchestra, 50c, 75c; Balcony, 35c, 25c. MATINEE—Reserved Seats, 25c, 35c; General Admission, 15c.

ACADEMY, WEEK BEGINNING Monday, March 30

(Except Thursday.)
WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY MATINEES.

THE GIFFEN COMPANY

WILL PRESENT

"The Man on the Box"

DRAMATIZED BY GRACE LIVINGSTONE FURNIS FROM THE NOVEL BY HAROLD McGRATH.

PRICES: (Evenings, 25c, 50c, 75c.
Matinees, 25c and 50c.

BUT IT IS EASILY WORTH \$1.50.

An admirable company.—Times-Dispatch.
Giffen players score a hit.—News-Leader.

Academy, Thur., April 2

NIGHT ONLY.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE COMEDIENNE

Miss Isabel Irving

(LIEBLER & CO., Managers.)
In Jerome K. Jerome's Comedy Hit of the New York Season.

Susan in Search of a Husband

Supported by a Cast of Superlative Excellence.

Prices, 25c to \$1.50.

BIJOU--

Richmond's Popular Play House

Mats., Tues., Thurs., Sat.

CHAS. E. BLANEY PRESENTS

THAT FUNNY LITTLE COMEDIAN

HARRY CLAY BLANEY



AS WILLIE LIVE,

The Boy Detective

By Chas E. Blaney.

A PLAY THAT EVERYBODY SHOULD SEE
IT APPEALS TO ALL.